

I live in mid-Michigan, an area already badly divided over the Presidential election. The Sinclair broadcast of an anti-John Kerry diatribe, on the public's airwaves, will serve only to further divide Americans at a time when consolidation has led to distrust of both the media and politicians, and ultimately our government.

I ask the FCC to protect the right to free speech of all Americans, not just those wealthy enough to own media outlets. Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.